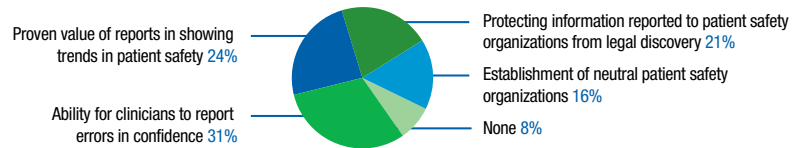


Summary

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ's) national voluntary system for reporting medical errors, created as a result of the July 2005 Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act should be established by mid-2008. While most respondents indicated that this system will have a positive impact on patient safety, no single area outlined in this program was felt to play a dominant role (ability to report errors in confidence and proven value of reports showing trends in patient safety) were selected most frequently. Respondents also see the value of real-time reporting, indicating that it could assist in the identification of adverse drug effects and hospital-acquired infections. With respect to information technology, the willingness of providers to enter information into a system was clearly identified as a challenge to optimal patient care. However, respondents do believe that technologies such as computerized provider order entry (CPOE) and electronic medication administration record (eMAR) have already had a positive impact on patient care.

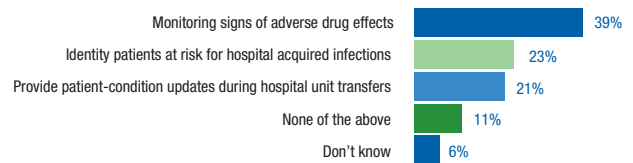
Impact of Voluntary Error Reporting

While respondents noted that the voluntary reporting system put in place by AHRQ will have an impact on patient safety, there was no clear consensus on which area covered in this system will have the most impact. Nearly one-third indicated that the ability for clinicians to report errors in confidence would have the most impact, yet, one-quarter also noted that the value would be addressed through reports showing trends in patient safety.



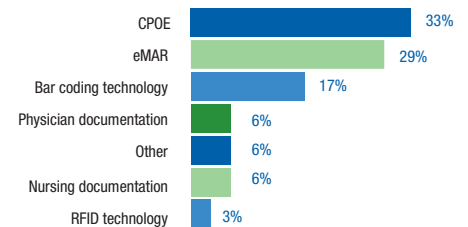
Impact of Real-Time Patient Monitoring

Similarly, respondents noted that the capability of providing real-time patient monitoring could have a positive impact on patient care. While monitoring for signs of adverse drug effects was cited most frequently, identifying patients at risk for hospital acquired infections and providing patient-condition updates during hospital unit transfers were also identified by a substantial portion of respondents.



Application with Most Impact Patient Care

Respondents were also asked to identify the application that presently has had the greatest impact on improving patient care. One third of respondents reported that the application with the most impact to date was computerized provider order entry (CPOE). Nearly as many respondents identified electronic medication administration records (eMAR). From a hardware perspective, respondents are most likely to indicate that tablet computers will most facilitate use of technology at the patient bedside. For more information, see the HIMSS website (www.himss.org).



Biggest Challenge That Information Technology Presents With Patient Care

Approximately half of respondents indicated that the biggest challenge that information technology presents with respect to patient care is that healthcare providers are unwilling to enter information electronically. This was selected nearly three times more frequently than information is difficult to locate within the computer system, which was identified by 18 percent of respondents.

